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SHARING AND GIVING *

To Leaders:

Many 4-H Club members have a limited amount of money, therefore, they need to manage these funds carefully setting aside an allowance for gifts.

Sometimes, an unexpected occasion for gift giving arises. When this happens it may upset the best of spending plans -- especially if one thinks of gifts only in terms of the things money can buy. Such gifts are not always necessary or best. You, as a 4-H leader can help your club members to reach a better understanding of the full meaning of sharing and giving by using an approach similar to the following.

Suggested Approach:

You are richer than you think! You can make someone happy by sharing and giving your time and talents as well as the things that cost you money.

From the time you were a small boy or girl you have been learning to spend money wisely and to share the responsibility of being a part of a happy family. Probably you have learned not to demand too many items beyond the family budget or your allowance. You have also learned to share many of your possessions with other members of your family and at the same time to respect the right of others to keep some things for their very own.

Very often a common family possession such as a pet dog or cat, or the radio, phonograph, or even television is most enjoyed if you all share it together. A little consideration usually eliminates quarrels over the use of these things.

There is no set rule as to how much you should give or to whom. Possibly birthday and Christmas gifts are a problem to you because you haven't the money to buy or make them. Remember, the finest gifts are those where you give of yourself. Just promising to do the dishes a number of times for someone else when it is not your turn might be a much appreciated gift. Raking the leaves, mowing the lawn, baby sitting, preparing meals, dusting, preparing refreshments for a 4-H club meeting are only a few tasks which might be voluntary gifts. You can attractively present gifts of this nature by writing on a Christmas, birthday, or other gift card.

You may share in giving to community organizations and other worthy causes through your 4-H club. Keep in mind that these gifts may result in far greater benefits than you alone could give.

Sometimes it helps to keep a record of the gifts you make to various friends and relatives. This way you will not repeat the same gift twice in a row. As you grow older it will also help you to budget the money you earn. Right now try

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listing the contributions and community services which your 4-H club gives during the year.

Suggested Demonstrations at Meeting:

1. How to make an inexpensive toy as a child's gift.
2. How to wrap a gift attractively.
3. Suggestions for five gifts which do not cost money.
4. How to make attractive gift cards.